

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06295 190720Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01

INT-05 /119 W

----- 033513

R 190505Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6590

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONGEN MELBOURNE UNN

AMCONSUL PERTH UNN

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMCONGEN SYDNEY UNN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6295

EO 11652: NA.

TAGS: EMIN, EALR, AS

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO AUSTRALIAN COPPER MINING INDUSTRY.

1. GOA HAS INSTRUCTED INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION TO STUDY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF AUSTRALIAN COPPER MINING INDUSTRY AND RECOMMEND BY MID-NOVEMBER WHETHER CURRENT PROBLEMS OF DECLINING PRICES AND EMPLOYMENT FOR ORES AND CONCENTRATE CALL FOR ANY FORM OF SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRY.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS GOA DECISION, ANNOUNCED BY SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, RESULTED FROM RECOMMENDATION ORIGINATING IN DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY. RECOMMENDATION IN TURN GREW OUT OF INCREASING DISTRESS AS FALLING COPPER PRICES

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PAGE 02 CANBER 06295 190720Z

HAVE CAUSED CUTBACKS IN DOMESTIC MINING ACTIVITY. WHILE

PROBLEMS APPEAR MOST ACUTE IN MINING SECTOR SUPPLYING DOMESTIC AUSTRALIAN MARKET, ANNOUNCEMENT COINCIDED WITH NEW REPORTS THAT MOUNT ISA MINS, WHICH ARE AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST COPPER EXPORTER, ALSO HAVING DIFFICULTY AVOIDING CUTBACKS IN WORKFORCE.

3. WHILE TERMS OF REFERENCE ASSIGNED TO INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION WIDE-OPEN, ADVANCE PRESUMPTION IS THAT ASSISTANCE, IF ANY, WOULD HAVE TO TAKE FORM EITHER OF FINANCIAL SUPPLEMENTS TO PRODUCERS, SUCH AS BOUNTY OR SUBSIDY, OR ALTERNATIVELY SOME TYPE OF GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED DEMAND STIMULUS. THIS FOLLOWS FROM FACT THAT AUSTRALIA IS PREDOMINANTLY A COPPER EXPORTER WITH LITTLE OR NO IMPORTS OF COPPER AND ASSISTANCE COULD NOT THEREFORE TAKE FORM OF IMPORT MEASURES.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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